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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Fred ZACOUTO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3738

Appn. No. : 10/040,429

(Continuation of US application 09/200,855)

Examiner: B. Snow

Filed : January 9, 2002

For : SKELETAL IMPLANT

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111**

Commissioner For Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 23313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action of August 29, 2003, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections made therein are respectfully requested, in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Inasmuch as the three-month shortened statutory period set in the office action expired on December 1, 2003, Applicant hereby requests an extension of three (3) months, i.e., from December 1, 2003 to March 1, 2004 (February 29, 2004 being a Sunday) and is concurrently filing a formal Request for Extension of Time, together with all requisite fees therefor. If for any reason the Request for Extension of Time is not associated with the file, or the fee submitted herewith is deemed insufficient for any reason, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary to preserve the pendency of this application to deposit account No. 19-0089.